

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A

COUNTRY Hungary REPORT NO.

25X1 SUBJECT Debriefing DATE DISTR. 16 December 1953

25X1 NO. OF PAGES 3

25X1 DATE OF INFO. REQUIREMENT NO. 25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

25X1X

25X1X

1. Living Conditions.

Average monthly wages appear to be 600-700 forints, which corresponds to approximately 200-250 eastmarks. Since rationing has been discontinued in Hungary, the population technically could purchase any goods it wanted at prices prescribed by the Government. However, the difference between wages and prices is so great, that the average Hungarian has difficulties in obtaining even the barest necessities. In Berente (4814 N/2040 E), for instance, the standard of living was so low that the population was scarcely able to afford the purchase of sausages or meat. Housing conditions in Berente were abominable; Hungarian workers and their families lived, without any privacy, in barracks. Hungarian workers pleaded with German workers to work more slowly, since they were afraid that their norms will be increased to the average output of the better paid and fed Germans as soon as the latter were to return to East Germany. In spite of the low wages, Hungarian workers were forced to subscribe to a peace loan amounting to 500 forints, twice a year, per wage earner. The manner of working by the Hungarians was slipshod and without enthusiasm. The framework of the power station at Berente was constructed by the Germans in an expert manner. However, the Hungarians who covered the frame with concrete slabs did a very uneven job; consequently the high walls of the power station presented an irregular and wavy pattern. Civilians as well as military personnel were shoddy in appearance. Clothing on the German workers, however modest it might have been, was in sharp contrast to that of the Hungarians.

25X1X

2. Industrial Installations near Miskolc.¹

Along the railroad line Miskolc-Berente and extending 32 km. beyond Miskolc there is a well-planned new industrial complex. By making use of the coal in this area

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AEC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ORR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
-------	-------------------------------------	------	-------------------------------------	------	-------------------------------------	-----	-------------------------------------	-----	-------------------------------------	-----	-------------------------------------	-----	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

25X1

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "W", Field Distribution By "F")

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY

- 2 -

the individual factories are connected with each other in the following manner: From the coal mines² the coal is conveyed to the (a) coal classifier³; (b) the good coal to the benzine refineries (Benzinwerke); (c) the bad coal to the power plant;³ (d) coke from the chemical works⁴ to the gas works;⁵ (e) electricity from the power plant⁵ passes to the foundries,⁶ to the steel plants,⁶ and to the machine factories.⁶

3. New Power Plants at Pécs.

Large new power plants are being built in Pécs (Y5/B22). One of the plants allegedly has six furnaces.

4. Radio Reception. 25X1

25X1

[redacted] 80% of the population is opposed to the present Regime. [redacted] surprised how well informed the population was about world events. [redacted] the death of Mayor Reuter from Hungarians, who expressed sympathy. Those who had radios listened at 7 pm. to RIAS; the reception was clear and there was no interference by Hungarian stations.

5. German Prisoners of War. 25X1

[redacted] two German prisoners of war who for a few days were detailed to help out at the Berente project. These German prisoners of war informed [redacted] there were still over 30,000 German prisoners of war at Olaszliszka (R49/K38), including some Hungarian officers who had once served in the German Army. Conditions at the heavily guarded camp at Olaszliszka were extremely poor: food was inadequate and the workload excessive.

6. Military Units and Installations.

- a. Motorized infantry unit, [redacted] in Miskolc (R49/J87).
- b. Armored division, [redacted] in Budapest.
- c. Armored unit consisting of 65-70 tanks was located on the outskirts of Miskolc. [redacted] The tanks resembled American Sherman tanks and were definitely not T-34s. Each tank had an artillery piece of an estimated 6.5-7.5 caliber and a barrel 3½ m. long.
- d. Between the Danube and the railroad track at Vác (Q48/H65) there is an artillery barracks. Source saw approximately 60 Soviet artillery pieces of 10.5 cm. caliber, resting on carriages each with two rubber wheels. Allegedly, in the barracks courtyard there stood four-axled antiaircraft artillery pieces of 6.5 caliber.
- e. In Miskolc there are 16 large older barracks units (Kasernenblocks). Behind these 20 new units are being built. Close to the outskirts of the city there are eight more such units. All these buildings house mechanized infantry units, totaling approximately 45,000 men.
- f. In the neighborhood of Siófok (Y5/D86), at the edge of the forest and within a rock, there is a large gasoline depot.⁷
- g. At Bazika (sic. Barcika?) near Berente there are large gasoline depots within the hills. Entrance to the depots is gained through vineyards.

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A

- 3 -

7. Air Force Installations.

- a. At Dunakeszi-Alag (Q48/H63), source saw four hangars at the airfield. The surface of the field was grassy; there were no concrete runways. There were 25 single-engine airplanes parked on the field.
- b. There is an airfield at Sztalinváros (formerly Dunapentele Y6/N36) but it is not in use.
- c. At the airfield at Kaposvár (Y4/A96) there are four hangars and two repair shops. [] 60 double-motored bombers which were similar in appearance to the type of planes he had seen on the Schönefeld base in East Berlin. The Kaposvár field had four concrete runways, each of which were 8-10 m. wide and 1½ km. long. The runways consisted of concrete squares of about 4 m. by 4 m.
- d. At Debrecen (R48/K40) [] 65 single-motored fighter planes which resembled the German Me 109. The airfield had five hangars, one repair shop, and four runways. The latter appeared to have had the same dimensions as the Kaposvár runways, above.
- e. There were four hangars and one or two repair shops at the Nyiregyháza (R48/K55) airfield. (One of the buildings was closed, that is the reason why [] was uncertain of the number of repair shops). The 30 two-motored bombers at the field were similar in appearance to those seen at Kaposvár (Par. 7 c above). There were also a few old double-deckers of the "sewing machine" (Nähmaschine) type. [] four concrete runways, the width of each was at the most 8 m. and the length approximately 1 km. The runways consisted of concrete squares 4 m. by 4 m.
- f. In Miskolc (R49/J87), adjacent to the railroad tracks, [] a small airfield. No concrete runways were seen. There were two hangars. [] only old double-decker planes of the "sewing machine" type.

8. Bridges.

New bridges in Hungary appear to be of standard construction. The workmanship is apparently good. [] two such bridges, one at Aporka (Q48/N49) and at Kiskunlacháza (Q48/N49). These road bridges have 60 [] "I" beams and a standard width of about 8 m.

[] Comments:

- Most industries referred to in this paragraph are thought to be parts of the so-called Borsod Area Industrial Management with headquarters allegedly at the Hotel Korona in Miskolc.
- Coal is mined at Varbo, Kondo, Berente and in other localities in the Miskolc area.
- There is a coal classifier and power plant at Berente.
- Chemical works in the vicinity of Miskolc are at Sajóabony, Kazinbarcika, and at Sajószentpéter.
- Gas works and power plants are known to exist in Miskolc.
- [] probably referring to the well-known industrial installations in Diósgyőr and possibly at Ozd.
- The area in and around Siófok is rather flat. [] might have meant Tihany (Y5/D76) which is hilly and where an ammunition dump is known to exist. However, Tihany and Siófok are on the opposite shores of Lake Balaton.

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY